IN THE CLAIMS:

- (Original) A process for producing a SMAD interacting protein comprising: conducting a two-hybrid screening assay wherein SMAD C-domain fused to a DNAbinding domain is used as bait and a vertebrate cDNA library is used as prey.
 - 2. (Original) SMAD interacting protein produced by the process of claim 1.
- 3. (Original) A SMAD interacting protein of the family of zinc finger/homeodomain proteins including d-crystallin enhancer binding protein and/or *Drosophila* zfh-1, wherein said SMAD interacting protein:

does not interact with full size XSMAD1 in yeast,

SIP1_{czf} binds to E2 box sites,

SIP1_{czf} binds to the Brachyury protein binding site,
interferes with Brachyury-mediated transcription activation in cells, and
interacts with C-domain of SMAD 1, 2 and/or 5.

- 4-7. (Canceled).
- 8. (Original) A polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or a functional fragment thereof.
 - 9. (Canceled).
- 10. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the polypeptide of claim 8, together with a suitable carrier.
 - 11-17. (Canceled).

18. (Original) A polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 or a functional fragment thereof.

19-20. (Canceled).

- 21. (Original) A polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence depicted as the one letter code QHLGVGMEAPLLGFPTMNSNLSEVQKVLQIVDNTVSRQKMDCKTEDISKLK (SEQ ID NO: 21) necessary for binding with SMAD.
- 22. (Original) A SMAD interacting protein of a family of proteins which contain a cluster of 5 CCCH-type zinc fingers including *Drosophila* "Clipper" and Zebrafish "No arches" wherein said SMAD interacting protein

interacts with full size XSMAD1 in yeast, binds single or double stranded DNA, has an RNase activity, and interacts with C-domain of SMAD1, 2 and/or 5.

23. (Canceled).